

NYSC hopeful dies near camp gate in Rivers

A female graduate heading to the Rivers State orientation camp of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has died in an accident at the chaotic Refinery Junction near Port Harcourt, close to the gate of the camp.

Over 3,000 members of the November 2011 batch of the NYSC posted to the state who began their orientation camp on Thursday, November 17, found that camp rules are very strict.

The sad mood in camp at Nonwa Gbam, near Port Harcourt, took a worse turn, Wednesday night, when news came that a female prospective corps member just died in a motor accident at Refinery Junction, with only her bags arriving camp.

Sources said the female prospect remained in a coma for two days and died Thursday night, thereby throwing the camp in a mourning mood.

In the morning of the much-expected swearing-in that would turn the over 3000 prospects to NYSC members with rights, three names were allegedly called out and the panicky prospects were asked to carry their bags on their heads. Next, according to sources close to the camp commanders, they were asked to march toward the gate singing songs of guilt. The prospects allegedly fell on the ground begging but met stern faces of soldiers until they hit the gate. This allegedly brought a chill on the rest.

Sources said the three males were caught late at night smoking what was suspected to be Indian hemp in a corner by eagle-eyed soldiers who took them to their office interrogated them. Fears were rife that cultism may not be ruled out on the tips received by authorities who had assured the state government and the Director-General of stamping out indiscipline.